III. Extract of a Letter from Captain BLAKISTON, R.A., to General SABINE, R.A., Treasurer and V.P.R.S., dated Singapore, February 22, 1860, giving an account of a remarkable Ice Shower. Communicated by General SABINE. Received April 19, 1860.

"On the 14th January, 1860, when two days out from the Cape of Good Hope, about three hundred miles S.S.E. of it, in lat. 38° 53′ S., long. 20° 45′ E., we encountered a heavy squall with rain at 10 A.M., lasting one hour, the wind shifting suddenly from east to north (true). During the squall there were three vivid flashes of lightning, one of which was very close to the ship; and, at the same time, a *shower of ice* fell which lasted about three minutes. It was not hail, but irregular-shaped pieces of solid ice, of different dimensions, up to the size of half a brick. The squall was so heavy that the topsails were let go.

"There appears to have been no previous indication of this squall, for the barometer at 6 P.M. on the two previous days had been at 30·00, therm. 70°; at 8 A.M. on the 14th, 29·82, therm. 70°; at 10 A.M. (time of squall), 29·86, therm. 70°; and at 1 P.M., when the weather had cleared, wind north (true), 29·76, therm. 69°; after which it fell slowly and steadily during the remainder of the day and following night*.

"As to the size of the pieces of ice which fell, two which were weighed, after having melted considerably, were $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 ounces respectively; while I had one piece given me, a good quarter of an hour after the squall, which would only just go into an ordinary tumbler. And one or two persons depose to having seen pieces the size of a brick.

"On examination of the ship's sails afterwards, they were found to be perforated in numerous places with small holes. A very thick glass cover to one of the compasses was broken.

"Although several persons were struck, and some knocked down on the deck, fortunately no one was seriously injured."

* The weather on the morning preceding the squall was clouded, with close and thick atmosphere, wind E. (true), 3. By night of the 14th the wind had hauled to N.W. (true), 4; and the day following was W.S.W. (true), 5—6, cloudy.